

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT

Hungarian People's Army Subjected to Personnel Cut in

the Fall of 1953.

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE PREPARED 8 November 1954

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. In May 1953, a meeting which involved all commanding officers subordinate to the army artillery command down to regimental and independent battalion commanders, consequently also the commander of the 1st Obsn Bn, was held at the army artillery command in Budapest. After his return to the summer camp west of Nagykoeroes, the battalion commander told the headquarters personnel

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that it was planned to activate the Second Army in the fall of 1953. Some units of the new army would be formed of cadres to be provided by the First Army, while other units would be newly activated. The activation of the Second Army would involve such a great demand for officers that it could not be covered even with the officers leaving the officer schools in the fall of 1953. Consequently, special stress should be laid especially on the training of the young officers in an effort to render them qualified to fill the places of unit commanders although they would not be old enough for this kind of appointment. The subject of the commanders' meeting in Budapest was kept secret from all other officers of the Battalion.

2. In August 1953, another commanders' meeting was held at the army artillery command in Budapest. The subject of this meeting was no longer the activation of the Second Army, but a personnel cut which was to be effected in the Hungarian People's Army. The points discussed at the meeting were disclosed at an officers' meeting of the 1st Obsn Bn, but no reason for the army personnel cut was given. It was announced that, as far as artillery was concerned, the cut would be effected not by the disbanding of regiments, but by reduction of the number of battalions and the authorized strength of the units.
3. Due to the reduction of the number of the battalions in October 1953, about 70 officers of the 30th Arty Div or about 10 percent of actual strength were discharged. On the basis of an understanding, a minor portion of these officers was transferred to the staff of the Ministry of the Interior (constabulary). Others of the officers discharged were pensioned; they received their full salary for the month following the date of discharge and reimbursement for the

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costs of moving. Most of the dischargees were transferred to the reserve officer corps and received their full salary for three months after the date of their discharge and reimbursement for the costs of their moving.

4. In all orders concerning the army personnel cut, reference was made to the so-called strength reduction (Hungarian: letzamcsokentes).
5. During a visit to Cegléd (O 49/O 08), Lieutenant Mihaly Fekete, formerly deputy battery commander of the sound-ranging battery, who was reassigned to an infantry regiment in Keszthely (Y 4/V 40) as deputy company commander for political affairs in the fall of 1953, said that he would get another appointment in this infantry regiment because the place of the deputy company commander for political affairs had been abolished.²

1. [REDACTED] Comment. A First Army is mentioned for the first time. Except for military area headquarters, only corps headquarters were regularly determined as top command agencies subordinate to the ministry which included the general staff.
2. [REDACTED] Comment. The army personnel cut in the fall of 1953 has been mentioned in a previous report [REDACTED]

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